

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR A DRAFT WATER QUALITY STUDY
(TMDL) IN THE PAMUNKEY RIVER MAINSTEM AND TRIBUTARIES IN SPOTSYLVANIA,
HANOVER, LOUISA, NEW KENT, AND KING WILLIAM COUNTIES**

PUBLIC MEETINGS: Meetings are offered at two convenient locations within the watershed. Two meetings will be held on Monday February 24, 2014 at Ashland Library located at 201 South Railroad Avenue in Ashland, VA, at 2pm and 6pm. Two meetings will also be held on Wednesday February 26, 2014 at the Snow Branch Library located at 8740 Courthouse Road, Spotsylvania, VA at 2pm and 6pm. All meetings are open to the public. Meeting materials and presentations are identical in terms of content. In the case of inclement weather, please contact Margaret Smigo at (804)527-5124 or Margaret.Smigo@deg.virginia.gov.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and consultant, MapTech Inc, are presenting the draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study to restore water quality at four public meetings within the watershed (identical content), an opportunity for the public to share their knowledge of the watershed, and a public comment period following the meetings (2/27/14 – 3/28/14). The draft report will be available on the website approximately one week prior to the meetings at <http://www.deg.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/TMDL/TMDLDevelopment/DraftTMDLReports.aspx>.

MEETING DESCRIPTION: Public meetings provide an opportunity for the public to share their knowledge of the watershed and learn about pollution affecting community waters. Meetings will feature a summary of information from the draft TMDL, including watershed land use, water quality monitoring, suspected sources of bacteria, and the reduction of source bacteria required to meet water quality standards.

The presentation will be posted on the DEQ website following the meetings at:

<http://www.deg.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/TMDL/TMDLDevelopment/DocumentationforSelectTMDLs.aspx>. The presentation from the first public meetings held in February 2013 are still available at this site, under “Pamunkey River and Tributaries – Bacteria TMDL Development”.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: Virginia agencies have been working to identify sources of the bacterial contamination in the waters of the Pamunkey River and its tributaries in the following impaired waterways:

Stream	County/City	Length (mi.)	Impairment
Northeast Creek	Spotsylvania	2.74	Bacteria (Primary Contact / Swimming Use / Recreation Use)
Little River	Louisa	4.01	
Beaverdam Creek	Hanover	8.47	
Little River	Hanover	10.77	
Mill Creek	Caroline	4.39	
Pamunkey River	Caroline, Hanover, King William	12.26	
Kersey Creek (trib to Crump Creek)	Hanover	2.76	
(XJC) Crump Creek UT	Hanover	1.79	
Pollard Creek (UT to Crump Creek)	Hanover	4.06	
Crump Creek	Hanover	10.08	
(XDW) Pamunkey River UT	King William	5.51	
UT (XDX) to UT (XDW) to Pamunkey River	King William	3.85	
Pamunkey River	Hanover, King William	0.305 sq miles (estuarine - tidal)	
Jacks Creek and Tributaries	King William	21.05	
(XID) Harrison Creek UT	King William	0.16	
Harrison Creek	King William	2.80	
Harrison Creek	King William	0.048 sq miles (estuarine – tidal)	
Pamunkey River	King William, New Kent	3.634 sq miles (estuarine – tidal)	

These streams are impaired for failure to meet the *Primary Contact (Recreational or Swimming)* use because of bacteria standard violations. This standard is meant to indicate excessive bacteria levels which may pose a threat to human health if bodily exposure to these waterways by recreation, such as "primary contact" or swimming, occurs. The study reports on the sources of bacteria and recommends total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, bacterial levels need to be reduced to the TMDL amount. In addition to the TMDL, the document includes a modification to existing TMDLs within the Pamunkey River basin (developed in 2006) and references it and other existing TMDLs in the appendix. The modification is also eligible for public comment.

HOW A DECISION IS MADE: After the public meeting and all public comments have been considered and addressed, DEQ will submit the final TMDL report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and State Water Control Board for approval.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts formal written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period, which will begin on Thursday February 27th and end on Friday March 28, 2014.

TO SUBMIT COMMENTS OR FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT:

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